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Live and learn

Free the Children's We Day highlights the power of education as it returns to Saskatchewan to entertain and inspire PAGE 5

IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR?

IN WHICH SHANNON TRASHES THE THREE SARAHS TO MR. XU OVER MARTINIS PAGE 7

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T.O.'S FORD WON'T FALL ON HIS SWORD

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford addresses the media at Toronto City Hall on Tuesday. Ford, who admitted to smoking crack cocaine, offered another emotional apology for his "mistakes," but says he loves his job and has no plans to step aside. Story, page 4. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Off with their paycheques!

Hammer falls in expenses scandal. Pamela Wallin claims Senate suspensions make it a 'sad day for democracy'

Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau were cast Tuesday into political purgatory — suspended by the Senate and reviled by their former Conservative colleagues, including the prime minister who appointed them.

All three maintain they're the victims of a politically motivated witch hunt aimed at putting a lid on a Senate expenses scandal that has engulfed Stephen Harper's government for almost a year.

"I think it's an extremely sad day for democracy," Wallin said as she exited the Senate chamber after the vote, her voice heavy with emotion.

"If we can't expect the rule of law in Canada, then where on earth can you expect it?"

Brazeau said nothing as he left the Senate. Duffy did not show up for the vote.

But while the vote to suspend the trio marks the end of a protracted and politically damaging debate, the shock waves wrought by scandal — and particularly by bombshell revelations dropped by Duffy — are still reverberating for Harper and his Conservative government.

All three, along with former Liberal senator Mac Harb, are under investigation by the RCMP for making allegedly fraudulent expense claims. There is no end in sight to the steady drip of revelations from the Mounties as they file court documents in pursuit of evidence.

Auditor general Michael Ferguson, meanwhile, has begun a comprehensive audit of all senators' expense claims, which could yet turn up more wrongdoing.

If others are found to have committed a "pattern of abuse," government Senate leader Claude Carignan said Tuesday that more sanctions could yet be meted out.

Harper's office expressed satisfaction with the suspensions, which followed weeks of emotional, often explosive debate, punctuated by bombshells from Duffy that directly implicated the Prime Minister's Office in the scandal.

"Removing these three senators from the public payroll was the right thing to do," the PMO said in a statement. "They should not be collecting a public paycheque."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No money, mo' problems

Duffy, Wallin and Brazeau retain the title of senator and their health, dental and life insurance coverage, but get no pay and lose their Senate privileges and resources for the duration of the current parliamentary session, which could continue for two years.

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Athletics commission

New legislation could open door to MMA events

The Saskatchewan Party government introduced new legislation Tuesday to create an athletics commission, potentially paving the way for future mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions to be hosted in the province.

The proposed commission would consist of five members: An athletics commissioner, an adjudicator and three "subject matter" experts, according to a government press release.

MMA facility owner Anthony Scales said a provincial athletics commission would ensure competitions are "well-managed" and that participants are fairly treated.

Tourism Saskatchewan president Pat Fiacco added that hosting MMA events could attract countless sports tourists to the province. METRO

Crime

Charges laid in August homicide

Two men have been charged with first-degree murder in the August death of 29-year-old Kelly Diehl.

The men, aged 23 and 28, were arrested on Tuesday while in custody at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre on prior charges.

The Saskatoon Police Service says it received a call just after 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 29, about an assault in progress in the west alley of the 500 block of 5th Avenue North.

When police arrived, Diehl was found lying in the area and was pronounced dead by MD Ambulance personnel.

Witnesses told police they saw two people flee the area. Police conducted a search, but the assailants were not found.

Police say the victim and the accused were known to each other.

The suspects are expected to appear in Saskatoon provincial court Wednesday morning. METRO

Food-bank usage falling: Report

2013 Hunger Count.
Centres in Regina, Saskatoon optimistic about decrease

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Canada's food banks had fewer mouths to feed in 2013, but according to those on the ground in Saskatchewan there's still plenty of work to be done.

Food Banks Canada released its 2013 Hunger Count on Tuesday and findings show the province of Saskatchewan has seen an 8.8 per cent drop in the number of people seeking assistance.

"We're hopeful with the slight decrease in numbers," Laurie O'Connor, executive director of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, said Tuesday, noting the organization has seen a six per cent decrease.

"Most concerning to us is the levels remaining so high since pre-recession numbers," she added, noting Saskatchewan's current rates are still roughly 26 per cent higher than numbers in 2008.

"Those numbers are still concerning us and we would love to see a continued downward trend, but one has not necessarily been established. We're definitely cautiously optimistic."

Steve Compton, CEO of the Regina Food Bank, said they too have seen a decrease in the number of people using its services.

"We're happy to report that we have seen a decrease from last year of 10.3 per cent," he said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "We think in large part that's due to a better economy, a better employment market, and that's an encouraging thing."

Both Compton and O'Connor said while they've seen a decrease since 2012, the demographics of those using food banks are changing as both organizations are seeing more students, seniors, new immigrants and people with jobs.

Method

Food Banks Canada produced the 2013 Hunger Count by taking a snapshot of food-bank usage in March 2012 and then comparing it year-over-year to a snapshot taken in March 2013.

Laurie O'Connor, executive director with the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, says the organization is optimistic about trends outlined in a recent report that found fewer Canadians are using food banks.
MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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San Francisco

What on Earth is Google building?

San Francisco's mayor says he doesn't know what it is. Police say it's not their jurisdiction. And government inspectors are sworn to secrecy.

Google is erecting a four-storey structure in the San Francisco Bay but is concealing its purpose by constructing it on docked barges instead of on land, where city building permits and public plans are mandatory. Construction became obvious a few weeks ago.

The Internet giant's actions at Treasure Island appear legal. However, privacy experts, environmentalists and legal authorities say that whether it's a store to sell Google's Internet-connected glasses, a data-storage centre or something else, the secrecy may backfire because Silicon Valley residents are highly protective of one of the most scenic and environmentally sensitive bays in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deal with Alberta

B.C. relents on pipeline royalties

With hopes of a trillion-dollar liquefied-natural-gas industry in her province's not-too-distant future, B.C. Premier Christy Clark has agreed B.C. will keep its hands out of Alberta's pockets where oil pipeline royalties are concerned.

The agreement removes the prospect of the neighbouring province holding B.C.'s natural-gas hostage, but gives B.C. little else.

In return, Alberta "agrees that B.C. has a right to negotiate with industry on appropriate economic benefits." Clark suggested a proposed oil refinery project, pipeline tolls and even federal revenues are still on the table for B.C. to get the "fair share" of economic benefits.

Clark's demand last year drew an immediate rebuke from Alberta Premier Alison Redford. Clark famously described a meeting between the two leaders as "frosty." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up to $300,000

Feds budget cash to curb sexual violence

The federal government is inviting proposals from community organizations to prevent online harassment and other sexual violence against girls and women.

One category of eligible projects involves preventing and eliminating cyberviolence, such as Internet bullying, luring and cyberstalking.

The second stream is aimed at helping sexual-assault centres or community service providers prevent and respond to such violence.

Projects at the local level could be given up to $175,000 over two years, while national initiatives are eligible for up to $300,000 over three years.

Organizations have until Dec. 1 to seek funding from Status of Women Canada through links at women.gc.ca. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crack? Yes. Step back? No chance

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford speaks to the media following Tuesday's admission. Ford did not step down, saying city business must go on. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Confession. Councillors trying to strip Toronto mayor of powers as he refuses to leave office

The mayor of Canada's largest city vowed to remain in office Tuesday despite revealing he had smoked crack cocaine while in a "drunken stupor" — an admission that reversed months of firm denials.

"Yes! I've smoked crack cocaine!" said Mayor Rob Ford. "Am I an addict? No. Have I tried it? Probably in one of my drunken stupors."

The mayor of Toronto said he tried the drug about a year ago, while he was in office.

Ford has been under intense scrutiny since May, when two media outlets reported on a video they said appeared to show the mayor smoking crack. Ford had defiantly denied he used the drug and suggested the video did not exist.

Hours after his surprise statement, a visibly troubled Ford made an emotional apology for his "mistakes" but said he had no plans to step aside.

"I was elected to do a job and that's exactly what I'm going to continue doing," he said. "I can't do anything else but apologize."

Ford said he kept his drug use from his family, staff and colleagues because he was "embarrassed and ashamed."

Ford again called for the video to be released so everyone could judge its contents.

"I don't even recall there being a tape or a video.... So I want to see the state that I was in."

Ford's backtracking had many shaking their heads, but the mayor insisted he had been truthful.

"I wasn't lying," he told reporters. "You didn't ask the correct questions. No, I'm not an addict, and no, I do not do drugs."

Nonetheless, at city hall some who worked with Ford said his latest admission was a clear sign that he needed to step back and get help.

A member of Ford's executive committee said some councillors were bringing a motion against the mayor that could strip him of some of his powers. Municipal law makes no provision for his forced removal unless he's jailed for a criminal offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign press

U.S. chuckles at the drama

Rob Ford's shocking admission clashes with the image many foreigners have of Canada, a political expert said Tuesday as the news took the world media by storm.

"It either breaks the narrative of the uptight Canadians or it plays to another narrative they have of the very liberal Canadians," said Peter Graefe, a political-science professor at McMaster University.

Within moments of the confession, it was splashed across major news websites abroad, including CNN and the BBC. Several U.S. networks carried the mayor's second news conference live.

The scandal has been a particular favourite with U.S. media, with some comparing the Ford affair to the case of former Washington, D.C., mayor Marion Barry, who was busted smoking crack cocaine by an FBI sting in 1990.

Ford has also been a recurring target for late-night talk shows. Even serious news outlets have taken a more lighthearted tone, something Graefe attributes to distance.

"It's not news when it's in other cities.... It's comedy."

A story posted on the Washington Post's website highlighted the vastly different reactions stirred by the Ford and Barry scandals.

"It's a different world now than it was in 1990," Clinton Yates wrote in the piece.

"In those days, it was a reason to vilify a majority-black city for a drug epidemic that took countless lives." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hey celeb, what was volunteering like?

"I can't even describe the joy I saw in children's eyes in Kenya, knowing they could go to school."

Shawn Desman, R&B singer

"It was very metaphorical. We built the foundation for that community and the kids."

Munro Chambers, actor on Degrassi

"The kids I met in Ghana were so excited about life. I know that they're going to conquer the world, and they're going to make it a better place."

Aislinn Paul, actress on Degrassi

Music lessons

CONTRIBUTED

Canada's classical vocal quartet The Tenors taught four-part harmony in rural Kenya recently, coaching high-achieving girls at Free the Children's Kisaruni Girls High School how to belt out a tune. And not just any tune, but the Leonard Cohen classic Hallelujah.

- Remigio Pereira, Victor Micallef, Fraser Walters and Clifton Murray divided the 80 eager girls into four groups and each Tenor taught his part of the song to his group. They then came together to sing as one powerful voice.
- Murray spoke of how inspiring it was to "share the international language of music with girls who have faced their share of hardship." But through education, and a song in their hearts, he said, they are tomorrow's leaders.

Watch the video of the girls singing Hallelujah at metronews.ca.

WE DAY

Time to get schooled: Free the Children's We Day, an annual event to launch a yearlong series of youth actions, looks at the power of education

SASKATCHEWAN 2013

Spencer West, front, climbs Mount Kilimanjaro with his best friends, David Johnson and Alex Meers.

CONTRIBUTED

Certain life lessons are universal: "Treat others how you want to be treated"; "Everything happens for a reason"; "Don't put aluminum foil in the microwave."

Then there are moments of personal triumph or tragedy that come with unforeseen life lessons. One such moment found me halfway up Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

About 2,500 metres into our 5,895-metre Kilimanjaro climb, I felt like I'd been hit by a truck. After four consecutive days of waking with the sun to trek through challenging climates, we'd reached the alpine desert — scorching heat and arctic chill — and Africa's tallest peak had taken its toll. Up to this point I'd been climbing on my hands. My shoulders, elbows and wrists were waging war with my body, begging me to stop. My best friends, David and Alex, would have to carry me in an apparatus that had been custom-built for the occasion of my defeat. The mountain had won.

Summit day

David and Alex were in rough shape, having lost the contents of their stomachs to altitude sickness. Physically, I felt fine. I guess being 2'7" finally paid off.

Spencer West, on the lessons he learned climbing Kilimanjaro without legs.

Then came summit day. David and Alex were in rough shape, having lost the contents of their stomachs to altitude sickness. Physically, I felt fine. I guess being 2'7" finally paid off.

Mentally, I was struggling with something I'll never forget. For the first time in my life I wished I had legs, not for my sake, but because I wanted to be able to carry my friends like they had carried me.

Evidently, my fairy godmother had the day off. Instead, I did the only thing I could do. I spoke from the heart, expressing words of encouragement the entire way to the top to keep their spirits up and their minds distracted from the gruelling monotony of putting one foot in front of the other.

I became the best damn cheerleader that mountain had ever seen. And I carried them, emotionally speaking.

The lesson? Always exercise in oxygen-rich environments.

No, really, it's this: I didn't fail for being carried; I succeeded when I asked for help, and then I returned the favour.

Nobody achieves anything exceptional on their own. I learned the importance of having others who believe in you.

For 57 million children around the world who are denied access to education, the ability to read, write and receive formal job training are lost.

But those children might also be denied moments of sudden, unexpected inspiration that come from the encouragement of their peers, life lessons they would have learned from exposure to alternative perspectives, and mentorship opportunities from teachers. An entire ecosystem of support is also lost.

For me, part of being educated means having the confidence to believe in yourself and the humility to ask for help. It's the ability to recognize teachable moments and extract moral lessons.

Education is the implicit knowledge that somebody believes in you, will celebrate your successes and shoulder your mistakes. Education is mentorship; it's the confidence that teachers instil in students so that when students graduate, they no longer need their teachers. Education is sustainability. We are in danger of losing this social capital, and 57 million life lessons.

SPENCER WEST/FOR METRO

International guests mix with local kids who their earned tickets

Thousands of kids from hundreds of schools across the province are filling up the Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon today to be wowed into action.

Co-founder of the Free the Children charity movement Marc Kielburger said that the second annual We Day in Saskatchewan is going to motivate youth to continue making a difference.

"When we look at what we're trying to do with inspiring young people, it's hard to be able to simply say to them, 'Go change the world,' and not give them the opportunities and the resources," said Kielburger.

He explained that a ticket cannot be purchased to We Day, but rather, access is earned through service.

One recent initiative found participants going around on Halloween to collect canned goods for the food bank instead of trick-or-treating for candy.

President and CEO of PotashCorp, Bill Doyle, said that his company is in a three-year partnership to sponsor We Day Saskatchewan and has committed $9.6 million. Doyle said PotashCorp, as a producer of fertilizer, was happy to get on board in part due to Free the Children's commitment to providing agricultural security in developing countries.

"You can't educate people if you don't feed people," said Doyle. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

LEARN TO DO BY DOING WITH 4-H

Each year, November provides an opportunity for 4-H members and leaders across Canada to celebrate the 4-H spirit and show their 4-H colours.

4-H members go beyond simply wearing green and white by making their presence known in their community by setting up displays, or performing acts of community service.

This November has a special significance to the 4-H organization since it marks the 100th year of 4-H programming in Canada. From humble roots in Roland, Man., in 1913, the 4-H family in Canada has grown to include more than 20,000 4-H members across the country today. Here in Saskatchewan, there are more than 3,000 members and nearly 900 volunteer 4-H leaders in more than 200 community 4-H clubs across the province.

With a century of history and a strong presence in our province, there are still many who haven't heard of 4-H or aren't sure what 4-H is all about.

The four 'H's stand for head, heart, hands and health. They appear in the 4-H logo and are derived from the 4-H pledge, which embodies the club's movement.

CONTRIBUTED

4-H members use their head to learn new things and to think critically and make decisions. 4-H members use their heart to build lasting friendships and a compassionate attitude towards community service. 4-H members use their hands to develop real-world skills and build or create projects of which they can be proud. Through 4-H, members become healthy, well-rounded people who are confident, skilled, and caring.

Through club involvement, 4-H members learn organizational and leadership skills that help them prepare to become capable professionals and community leaders. 4-H also offers many fun and competitive events and opportunities for members, including public speaking, curling, judging, scholarships, and national and international travel opportunities.

The 4-H motto is "learn to do by doing." Through project work, 4-H members explore their passions and make friends who share similar interests. True to the club's roots in agriculture, 4-H offers many projects that instill values of environmental stewardship and the skills of responsible animal husbandry, including the popular beef and horse projects.

Over the past century, 4-H has grown to include the many projects offered today, which range from archery to drama to woodworking. This year, many more project options are being added to the roster, including geocaching, bicycling, youth leadership, and exploring international cuisine, to name a few. 4-H truly has something for everyone.

One-hundred years later, 4-H has remained true to the pledge that gives it its name, and encouraged members and leaders to "learn to do by doing," learn new skills and find ways to give back to their communities.

Now that's something worth celebrating.

THE 4-H PLEDGE

I PLEDGE
MY HEAD
to clearer thinking,
MY HEART
to greater loyalty,
MY HANDS
to larger service,
MY HEALTH
to better living,
For My Club,
My Community,
and My Country.

4-H Canada celebrates 100 years!

- Become a 4-H member
- Become a 4-H leader
- Join a 4-H Club
- Start a 4-H Club

More than you imagine!

Something for everyone!

November is 4-H Month

Go to www.4-h.sk.ca for more information.

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 3

metronews.ca/temp

Pick your battles

Migrant workers raise a little hell on a Prairie farm

It didn't last, but a group of temporary, foreign farm workers at a small Prairie town were the first in Canada to accept a collective agreement.

The 14 workers, who travelled from Mexico to Portage la Prairie, Man. every summer to work picking crops like onions and broccoli, voted to ratify a three-year collective agreement through the United Food and Commercial Workers in the summer of 2008.

But a Supreme Court of Canada ruling in 2011 quashed the right of migrant workers in Canada to collectively bargain with their employers.

METRO IN WINNIPEG

Wage gap

An hour of your time for $5.44 less

So how do temps stack up to the rest of the work force when it comes to pay?

Well, there's a pretty stark difference.

Across Canada, temps earn, on average, $19.58 per hour — $5.44 less than permanent workers, according to Statistics Canada.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Temp Enjoys Thursday Meal Special at Mister McFunbury's

Rarely have I ever felt so much like Sigourney Weaver at the end of an Alien movie. Around me nothing but casualties and disaster while I, Shannon the survivor, exit the doomed mothership to hop into a taxi to go on my glamorous date with a high-flying Asian businessman.

"Where to, Miss?"

"Mister McFunbury's."

"The one where they had the hostage taking last September?"

"No, the one by the off-ramp that takes you to the oil refineries."

"Right."

Mr. Xu (pronounced Mr. Shoe) was standing by the cigarette machine as I was told he would be. He wasn't hot, but he wasn't unhot, either — that's an important distinction. He was my age — late twenties, kind of Banana Republicky, and he was quite relaxed given the clattering of walkers stemming from "It's A Senior's Shrimpy Thursday!"

"I'm Shannon."

"I am Mr. Xu."

"Let's grab our seats."

We sat down, and my first instinct was to figure out Mr. Xu's language capacity. "How long have you been in the city?"

"Two very glorious nights."

"I'm glad they've been glorious. Is your hotel OK?"

"Most gracious hotel. Thank you."

Oh dear. I was going to be sitting with a fortune cookie all night. Well, OK. "Why don't we get into the McFunbury's spirit, Mr. Xu?"

"That would be most excellent."

I'm not totally proud of myself, but I went right for the booze — we hadn't even ordered food and I was trashing the three Sarahs. "My issue with Sarah No.1, Mr. Xu, is that on the first anniversary of Whitney Houston's death she Facebooked: "One year later, heaven took an angel from Earth too soon."

I'm not totally proud of myself, but I went right for the booze — we hadn't even ordered food and I was trashing the three Sarahs.

"Most unfortunate."

"I'll say. And my issue with Sarah No. 2 is that at a Friday staff lunch she suggested "we girls" go off on our own and have a "cuddle puddle" to discuss things "the boys just wouldn't understand."

"So sorry."

"And my issue with Sarah No. 3 — killer martinis, by the way — is that she insists on microwaving popcorn with that nauseating fake butter smell. She says, 'Well I think it smells like fun. If you don't like fun then I feel sorry for you'."

"Most ungracious."

I stared at the laminated menu. "What do you think you'll order, Mr. Xu?"

He then looked at me and said, "Well, I'm not feeling very surf-and-turfy — you know, it's a mood that you're either in, or you're not. And I kind of carbo-loaded at lunch — doing a half marathon in three weeks — so I guess I'll get a clubhouse with McFunbury Sauce on the side. You?"

"You, Mr. Xu, are a total dick."

"Let us both have one more most glorious martini. Clean or dirty?"

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random fact of the day

How cute is this?

- Sea otters hold hands when they sleep and eat in order to keep from drifting apart.

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GIVE HUGS NOT DRUGS, ER, NOT

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

They're at it again.

"They" of course, are those faceless, officious minions of Politically Correct Behaviour who are ruining all the fun.

Just when you think They can't get any more faceless or officious, They pull something like a ban on touching for little kids, with consequences for those five-year-olds who dare to hold hands.

Yes, you read that right. Kindergarten kids at Coghlan Fundamental School in a Vancouver suburb were told on Friday they couldn't touch each other, no way, no how.

No holding hands, hugging, pushing each other on the swing, playing tag or doing anything that involves contact.

And if you don't think They are serious, They sent this sternly worded memo to parents:

"We will have a zero-tolerance policy with regards to hands-on play, resulting in the missing of playtime and trips to the office for those who are unable to follow the rules."

"OK," says the principal to the kid, "what are you doing in my office?"

"I hugged Madison."

"That's pretty serious. That sort of thing could lead to tag or even, gasp, an outbreak of holding hands. No recess for you!"

Why? Why? Glad you asked. Because this kind of stuff (touching) is allegedly dangerous and has caused some injuries, maybe. No specifics because there is nothing real that could ever justify such a ridiculous ban.

They can't help themselves. A couple of years ago, a Toronto school banned all balls: soccer balls, basketballs, baseballs, footballs, volleyballs, everything except those foam Nerf balls. Try playing basketball with a Nerf ball.

The idea behind this nonsense appears to be: "Yeah, it's all fun until someone gets hurt." And, to be honest: "We realize this looks completely nuts but our lawyers told us to do it, and we do everything They tell us to do."

But really, can They ever go far enough? Sure, a ban on touching will discourage physical harm, but what about the mental anguish of my five-year-old? Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will cause me to complain to the Human Rights Commission. Better issue a ban on talking.

What about breathing? Breathing causes the intake of particulate matter that can lead, later in life, to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Better ban breathing.

Seriously, this is evidence of a massive failure of nerve at the adult level. Either that or there's a growing reluctance to kiss the boo-boo or wipe away the tears, at least without wearing rubber gloves. It's much easier to put the little gaffers in a hermetically sealed bubble and get back to the serious business of contract negotiations. Now about that sick leave ...

ZOOM

Are these up close or far away?

Answers, clockwise from top left corner: micro: wing of a Green Darner dragonfly; macro: desert region of Arabian Peninsula; micro: surface of a rotted human tooth; macro: dune patterns in the Erg Oriental, Algeria. PHOTOS COURTESY STEPHEN YOUNG AND PAUL KELLY

Photos test our perception of size

These pictures test our ability to tell apart the microscopic and macroscopic worlds.

Geographer Stephen Young and biologist Paul Kelly of Salem State University collected more than 50 such images for a joint exhibition at Salem and at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. METRO

Q and A

What an expert says

STEPHEN YOUNG
Professor of Geography, Salem State University, Mass.

How can I guess which is small or large-scale?
Age and education level do not seem to decide if people will get it right. School kids have been doing as well as college students and the general public. Professionals who have used electron microscopes or satellite imagery tend to do better, but even they misidentify some as well.

Best aspect of the project?
There is something deeply intriguing about trying to figure out at what scale the image is and then to be so surprised when it is the opposite. To think something is a millimetre and to find out that it is 1,000 kilometres is quite surprising.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

There's no shortage of apps and services that will allow you to stream music to your mobile device, but none get more use on my iPhone than SoundCloud. It's free, the selection is endless and just letting it play is the safest path to discovering something new. Try these accounts for great electronic music.

CONTRIBUTED

DFA Records:

Easily the reigning champ of the disco renaissance we've been hooked on for the past few years, the home of James Murphy and LCD Soundsystem also happens to be extremely generous with keeping their feed updated with new tracks. (soundcloud.com/dfa-records)

Future Classic:

Just as danceable as DFA's output, but with occasional forays into beachside guitar pop and bittersweet ballads. There are already hundreds of songs posted for you to work your way through. Get ready to favourite a chunk of them. (soundcloud.com/futureclassic)

Ninja Tune:

The London-based label is among your best bets for when you're in the mood for something a little on the strange side. It's cool, though. There's nothing threateningly interesting. Just endless creative restlessness. (soundcloud.com/ninja-tune)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: So now Rob Ford has admitted smoking crack, tell Metro what you've done #inoneofmydrunkenstupors

@necksbest: I may have listened to Justin Bieber #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors. But I don't follow him and I'm not an addict

@jmmelanson: ran for mayor of Toronto and won accidentally #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors

@Jdubs12: #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors I drank some coke, a cola.

@katangus: #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors I ordered both the paperback and Kindle editions of 50 Shades of Grey.

@JGregRandall: I was in Seattle last year and did not visit the Space Needle. What was I thinking? #drunkenstupor

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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It's no Baby Sitter's Club, but Thor will do, I guess

Natalie Portman.
The star talks about her obsession with a certain book series and working with legend Anthony Hopkins

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Natalie Portman stars in Thor: The Dark World, which opens this weekend.
ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Despite starring in two movies based on a Marvel hero Natalie Portman says, "I've never gotten into comic books."

This weekend she reprises the role of Jane Foster, scientist and love interest to the God of Thunder in Thor: The Dark World.

Portman may not have spent time reading comics but she can understand the obsession fans have with Thor's characters because she was once a fan girl herself.

"The one thing I ever got into, like, that is really dorky," she says, "until I was 12 or 13 I was obsessed with the Babysitter's Club, a series of books for girls. There was a new book every month and the day the book would come out I had to go to the bookstore and get it and read it on the way home.

"The writer's name was Ann M. Martin and my friends and I would look in the phone book and call every Ann Martin trying to get her.

"One time she came to our bookstore and did a signing. The week before I wrote a packet about what her next book should be about, with drawings, and I waited in line for three hours and gave it to her and she was like, 'OK weirdo.'"

Playing heroine Jane Foster is miles away from her Academy Award winning role in the dark psychological drama Black Swan.

Portman admits she "never thought I'd get the chance" to act in a superhero movie, "which is why whenever they ask I say yes."

Also appealing is the chance to work with Anthony Hopkins, who she describes as "a giant among actors."

She shares several scenes with the veteran actor and says she was "completely intimidated" by him.

"I kept messing up lines around him because I was so nervous but he was so sweet about it. He'd say, 'That's a really hard line to say.'"

Many of her scenes with Hopkins take place on Asgard, the celestial planetoid home to Thor and his family, which raises the question, does Portman believe there is life on other planets?

"That question makes me think of another movie. In Antz all the insects are around a campfire," she says, laughing, "and they say, 'Do you think there's something bigger than us out there?'

"It totally feels like that. Of course there has to be something else out there. I don't know what it is but it would be completely silly to think that we're 'it.'"

Analysis

What's behind the hammer?

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It's hammer time at the movies this weekend.

Thor: The Dark World opens in theatres, bringing with it Chris Hemsworth as the sledgehammer wielding superhero with his rippling muscles, crazy mythology and Dark Elves.

The Marvel comic series borrowed the character from Norse mythology, co-opting the God Of Thunder's most famous weapon, the Mjölnir. In myth the name translates to "that which smashes," and refers to his hammer, a fearsome club capable of levelling mountains, causing lightning flashes and boomeranging back when he throws it.

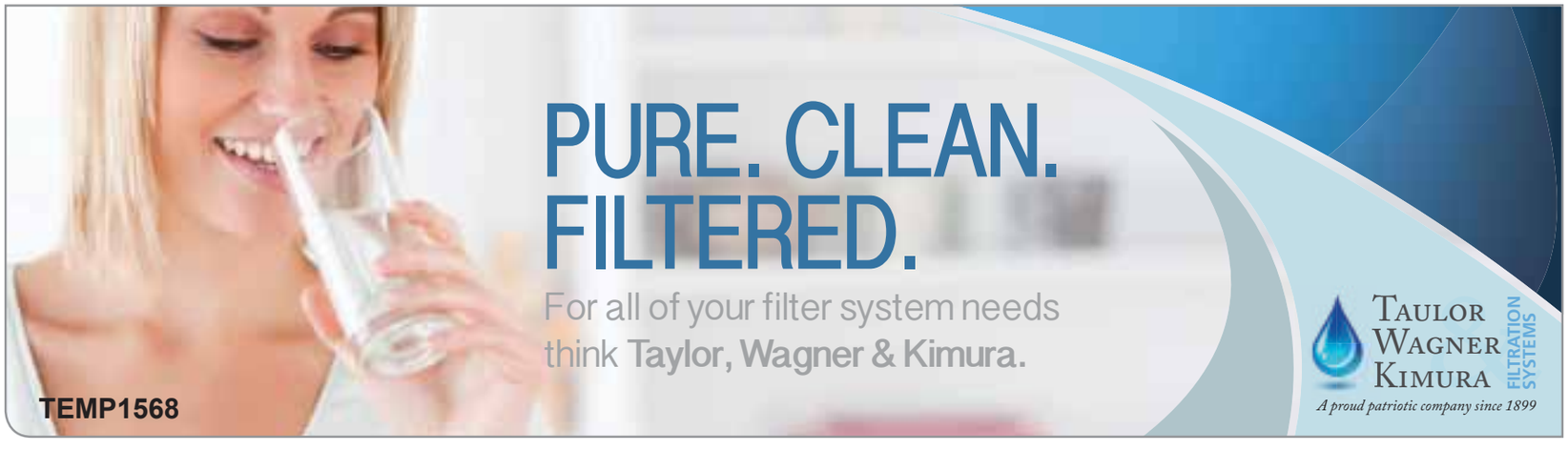
"The power within Mjölnir," he says, "doth rage like the winter storms bursting upon the shore in furious assault!"

According to Nordic legend the mallet was forged by dwarven brothers Sindri and Brokkr but Marvel embroidered the lore, adding to the story the fictional Asgardian metal uru as the main component of the basher and an inscription that reads, "Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor."

Thor: the man, the myth, the legend.

The image of Thor flying through the air, propelled by Mjölnir, is the iconic picture from the comics and movies, but not from mythology.

According to legend, Thor's preferred mode of transport was a chariot drawn by two 1,700-pound warrior goats named Toothgnasher and Toothgrinder.



Eminem. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Eminem on the defensive once again

Eminem is taking fire for still using homophobic terms in his lyrics on his latest album, so he's doing his best to explain himself.

"That word, those kinds of words, when I came up battle-rapping or whatever, I never really equated those words" to actually meaning gay, he tells Rolling Stone.

"It was more like calling someone a bitch or a punk."

The 41-year-old rapper insists it's all in good fun and people know how he really feels.

"I say so much s— that's tongue-in-cheek," he says of the lyrics.

"But the real me sitting here right now talking to you has no issues with gay, straight, transgender at all. I'm glad we live in a time where it's really starting to feel like people can live their lives and express themselves. And I don't know how else to say this; I still look at myself the same way that I did when I was battling and broke."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

No, it's just a gentleman's club, guys... with bed sheets

So apparently that Brazilian brothel Justin Bieber hung out at over the weekend wasn't exactly a brothel per se, according to some sources that are trying to help salvage the 19-year-old pop star's reputation.

Centauros is more like "an old-fashioned gentleman's club," a source tells E! News.

"For what it is, it is high end and it's not cheap to get in there. There is an entrance fee. Playboy-types go there and local businessmen and tourists."

Of course, that doesn't quite explain why the establishment would have bed sheets bearing its logo on hand — one of which Bieber hid under as he was rushed out of the building.

And as for the two women from the club who left with Bieber?

"The girls that work there — some have clothes on and some kind of don't," the source explains. "They are all in there to make money. They don't work for the club."

Drew Barrymore

Drew Barrymore's on her way to being a Griswold

Drew Barrymore wasn't kidding last month when she told Jay Leno that she and husband Will Kopelman are ready to try for a second baby. The actress' rep confirmed to E! News that Barrymore is once again pregnant. Her first child, daughter Olive, was born in September of last year.

"I grew up as an only child," she told Leno last month. "That really works for some people, and for some parents that's the way they want to do it. I want to be the Griswolds."

Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus mocks In Touch magazine

Miley Cyrus is clearly taking all the tabloid attention she's been receiving in stride. In Touch magazine published an extensive cover story on the singer with a giant headline, "Miley finally admits: I need help!"

So what was Cyrus' response? She made the magazine cover her profile picture on Twitter.

Twitter

@TheRock
When it comes to success, consistency is key. Consistent hard work that we may not like, but for a payoff we'll love.

@kirstiealley
Tech geniuses..my twitter wouldn't work AT ALL for 2 days..it would kick me out! what technically would cause that? other than hate crimes?

@johncusack
Watching the brilliant "hannah and her sisters " by the maestro woody Allen - a great American film with wonderful actors everywhere

The lost link to golf heaven

Bermuda. Island's plethora of renowned courses attract players from around the world

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

Port Royal's signature 16th hole is a par three clinging to a cliff high above Whale Bay. PHOTOS: MARKETING BERMUDA

Breathtaking ocean views will help you forget your double bogeys.

Bermuda is renowned for its pink sand beaches, turquoise waters and refined atmosphere. Just as unforgettable are Mid Ocean, Port Royal and the other golf courses on an island of almost celestial beauty.

"You go to heaven if you want to," Mark Twain famously said of Bermuda. "I'd rather stay here."

Founded in 1609 by survivors of a British shipwreck, Bermuda has long enjoyed a reputation as one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Sailboats and luxury yachts dot the harbour at Hamilton, the bustling capital, where colonial-style houses topped by stepped roofs to collect rainwater are painted in a palette of pastel colours. Oleander, frangipani, bougainvillea and hibiscus scent the warm breezes of the Gulf Stream.

High season in Bermuda, located roughly 1,000 kilometres east of the North Carolina coastline, runs from April through October. But many Canadians visit during the sub-tropical island's more temperate winter months, when daytime highs average just below 20 C, room rates are reduced, and tee times at top courses are readily available.

Though just 54 square kilometres in size, Bermuda is remarkably rich in world-class golf courses. The sport has been a major tourist draw since the early 1920s, when Riddell's Bay Golf and Country Club opened on a narrow peninsula thrusting into the turquoise waters of the Great Sound. The tight fairways and small greens of architect Devereux Emmet's 5,713-yard layout offer ample challenge, especially when winds gust off the Atlantic.

A few kilometres north of Riddell's Bay is Mid Ocean Club, a superb Charles Blair Macdonald design that has symbolized Bermuda golf since opening shortly after the launch of Riddell's Bay.

Mid Ocean is where Bermuda's elite take their divots. Billionaire Ross Perot and New York's Michael Bloomberg own houses in the rolling hills overlooking the golf course. Another member, movie star Michael Douglas, became a local hero in the aftermath of hurricane Fabian in 2003 when he used his private jet to deliver chain saws and generators, then stayed for a week to help in the cleanup.

Remodelled with good judgment by the great Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1953, Mid Ocean offers risk-and-reward golf at its best as it winds 6,520 yards through rolling inland countryside before ending dramatically with a par four that skirts the bluffs overlooking the sea.

At Mid Ocean's daunting 433-yard par-four fifth, where the fairway bends around a lake that is widest on the direct line to the green, Babe Ruth once put a dozen balls in the water before hitting a home run.

Two other popular and challenging layouts are Tucker's Point Club, a hilly Roger Rulewich redesign that is the centrepiece of a posh resort community featuring Tucker's Point Hotel and Spa; and Belmont Hills Golf Course, a remodelled 6,017-yard layout offering panoramic vistas of the Great Sound and Hamilton Harbour. Bermuda even boasts one of the world's top-ranked par-three courses, Turtle Hill Golf Club, an 18-hole, 2,962-yard beauty on the grounds of Bermuda's largest hotel, the towering pink 593-room Fairmont Southampton.

But the buzz these days is about the rejuvenated Port Royal Golf Course, which every October since 2009 has hosted the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, a made-for-TV exhibition featuring the winners of the year's four major championships.

Built in the 1960s by Trent Jones Sr. atop oceanside cliffs on the south shore, the government-owned course received a brilliant $15-million revamp several years ago by Rulewich, who worked with Jones during the original construction.

Especially unforgettable is Port Royal's signature 16th, a staggeringly gorgeous wind-blown par three clinging to a cliff high above Whale Bay that stretches to a heroic length of 235 yards from the back tee.

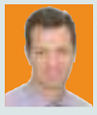
Twain had it right. With golf holes like that, heaven can wait.

After golf

- **Beaches.** Bermuda is renowned for its secluded and pristine pink sand beaches. Three of the best: Whale Bay, Astwood Cove and Jobson's Cove.
- **Snorkelling.** There are roughly 300 shipwrecks to explore in warm and clear waters offering reefs, underwater caves and a variety of marine life.

Adventuring

Tips for your own epic global trek



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

An around-the-world trip is something many of us dream of but the thought of planning it can be daunting.

The first step is acknowledging that it will be a lot of work. You're not just planning one holiday, you're planning 12 or 15 or 20 back to back and dealing with numerous flights, hotels, airport transfers, different currencies, languages and time zones.

You should count on being away for at least a couple of months and once you hit the road it's imperative to leave time every few days to stay on top of — and make changes to — your schedule.

Plan an itinerary that ensures you visit the spots you have always dreamed of seeing: the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal or the Great Barrier Reef.

However, make sure to leave room for some spontaneity in your trip.

Once you're on the road, the reality of travelling could have you feeling differently about places.

Book holidays within the holiday. You'll need to give yourself a rest every now and then.

Don't feel bad that you're not exploring some hidden temple or touring a museum. Sometimes you just need to plant yourself in a beach chair with a drink in hand.

The more obscure the places you want to hit, the more expensive your ticket will likely be. Stopping in major hub cities like London, Sydney and Bangkok will keep the price of your plane ticket down. Purchase your ticket with an airline that is part of a larger alliance, like Air Canada and Star Alliance, which gives you the option to fly on more than 25 airlines as part of your ticket. Remember that round-the-world plane tickets will keep you moving from east to west or vice-versa; you can't go backwards.

Pack light, but also pack what you like to wear. You're going to be wearing the same clothes again and again, through countless layovers, different climates and a variety of cultures. While shopping may be enticing, lugging around what you buy for weeks or months will quickly become cumbersome.

Don't be afraid to go alone. My friend @MSiddiqi is currently on month six of a solo trip and loving it.

If you are travelling by yourself you will meet other people easier than if you were travelling with a companion.

The opportunity to move at your own pace is an added bonus of travelling alone.

A round the world trip can be a costly, time-consuming endeavour, but the rewards are priceless.

Move over pumpkins, it's orange's time to shine in the kitchen

Orange Pound Cake

This recipe serves 12. ROSE REISMAN

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

If you love pound cakes but don't want to add on the pounds, this is a perfect dessert or snack in the afternoon. The cream cheese gives the cake a creamy and buttery texture without the calories and the fat.

For the record, each serving contains 214 calories and 7.6 grams of fat.

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9- X 5-inch loaf pan with cooking spray.

Nutritional analysis

Per serving: 241 calories, 4.5 g protein, 7.6 g total fat, 1.9 saturated fat, 40 g carbohydrates, 42 mg cholesterol 42 mg

Ingredients

Cake
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 oz light cream cheese, softened
- 1 tbsp grated orange rind
- 1 tbsp poppy seeds
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2/3 cup low-fat sour cream

Icing
- 1 oz light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 1 tbsp fresh orange juice

Garnish
- Poppy seeds and/or grated orange rind

2. To make cake: In a food processor or in a large bowl and using an electric mixer, beat eggs, sugar, orange juice, oil, cream cheese, orange rind, and poppy seeds until smooth. In another bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, and baking soda; into cream cheese mixture, alternately stir flour mixture and sour cream, making three additions of each. Pour into prepared pan.

3. Bake in the centre of oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until a tester inserted in centre of cake comes out clean. Remove from pan and cool completely on a wire rack.

4. To make icing: In a food processor or in a bowl and using an electric mixer, beat all icing ingredients together. Spread over top of cake. Garnish with poppy seeds and/or orange rind.

Drink of the Week

The Perfect Martini

- 2 oz Luksusowa Vodka
- 1/4 to 1/2 oz dry vermouth
- Crushed ice
- Olive, onion or a lemon twist

Tools
- Stainless steel shaker or glass pitcher with spoon and strainer
- Atomizer
- Martini or rock glass
- Condiment pick or zester (depending on selected garnish)

Use chilled martini or rock glass. Sparingly atomize inside of glass with the dry vermouth (less vermouth equals a martini that is more dry). Gently shake or stir Luksusowa Vodka with crushed ice in stainless steel shaker or glass pitcher. Immediately pour (straining out ice) into glass. Garnish with olive, onion or a lemon twist. COURTESY LUKSUSOWA

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Classic cheesecake's tropical upgrade

Sweet, tropical mango flavours healthy enough for an everyday indulgence? It's possible with this unique take on the classic cheesecake recipe.

This recipe makes 12 to 16 servings. YOPLAIT CANADA

Ingredients

Crust
- 1 cup (250 ml) graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter or margarine, melted

Filling
- 2 pkgs (250 g each) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 6 x 100 ml containers (about 2 cups/500 ml) Yoplait Yopa! Greek Yogurt – Mmmm Mango Tango
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) finely mashed mango (about 1 mango)
- Additional chopped mango for garnish

1. Heat oven to 300 F (150 C). Line bottom of 9-inch (23 cm) spring form pan with parchment paper or spray with non-stick cooking spray.

2. Combine crust ingredients and press into spring form pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

3. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add yogurt and flour and beat until smooth.

4. Add eggs one at a time and beat on low until blended.

5. Fold in mashed mango. Pour cheesecake into prepared pan.

6. Bake 1 hour or until centre is slightly jiggly. Turn off oven; let cool in oven 20 minutes with door closed.

7. Remove from oven; run knife around side of pan to loosen. Cool on wire rack 2 hours. Cover; refrigerate at least 4 hours. Carefully remove sides of pan.

8. Garnish with chopped mango. COURTESY YOPLAIT CANADA

NFL

Collarbone injury forces Rodgers to Packers sideline

The Packers' franchise quarterback is taking a seat.

Aaron Rodgers said Tuesday he has fractured his left collarbone and has no idea yet how long he will be out.

He was hurt on a sack by the Bears' Shea McClellin on a third-down play during the Packers' first series while he was scrambling outside the pocket.

So in steps Seneca Wallace, who wasn't even in Packers training camp this off-season, to take over the offence against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

Wallace was ineffective in relief in the 27-20 loss against the Bears, finishing 11-for-19 for 114 yards and an interception. It was his first game since Jan. 1, 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Texans coach released from hospital after mini-stroke

Texans coach Gary Kubiak is out of the hospital after suffering what the team said was a mini-stroke, but there's no word on when he will resume coaching duties.

The team said the 52-year-old Kubiak suffered a transient ischemic attack at halftime of Sunday's loss to Indianapolis. He was released from hospital on Tuesday and is expected to make a full recovery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions quarterback Travis Lulay hands the ball off to Andrew Harris against the Stampeders in Vancouver on Friday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lions hold off on naming starting QB

CFL. Choice between Lulay, Pierce likely won't be made until Friday

Quoted

"I think everyone that's on the roster has to expect to step in there and contribute." Lions quarterback Buck Pierce

There's no disputing Travis Lulay's status as the B.C. Lions' No. 1 quarterback.

Whether he gets the start when his team visits the Saskatchewan Roughriders in Sunday's CFL West Division semifinal is another question entirely.

Lulay returned from injury last week for one series in the Lions' regular-season finale against the Calgary Stampeders, a 26-7 victory that meant nothing in the standings.

After missing the previous six weeks with an ailing right shoulder, Lulay went 3-for-4 in passing for 54 yards and also scored a rushing touchdown.

That small sample size and veteran backup Buck Pierce's strong play the last two weeks gives Lions coach Mike Benevides plenty to ponder ahead of the weekend tilt in Regina.

"Let's remember, as good as it was last week, it wasn't a lot of work," Benevides said Tuesday of Lulay's short outing against the Stampeders. "There's no doubt it's his team and Buck will tell you the same thing, but right now it's about all of us. It's not about a single person.

"As I told the guys, 'It's not about you, it's not about me. It's about us.' So whatever it's going to take to win the next game, that's what we're going to do."

Benevides added that he likely won't name a starter until after Friday's practice.

Lulay, who was hurt in a victory over the Montreal Alouettes on Sept. 15 and has been slowly rehabbing his throwing shoulder over the last number of weeks, sounds ready to go.

"I'm preparing like I am going to be the starter," said Lulay, the MVP of the Lions' 2011 Grey Cup victory. "I'm hopeful that I can demonstrate that I can make all the throws I need to make and then coach (Benevides) will have a decision to make."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doping. Canada sets up anonymous snitch line

With the Sochi Winter Olympics fast approaching, overseers of Canada's elite athletes are hoping to avoid a post-podium national embarrassment.

In an effort to catch cheaters, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport launched an anonymous snitch line Tuesday where athletes and others connected to sport can report allegations of doping.

Canadians want to be reassured that every effort is being made to prevent an embarrassing spectacle in Sochi, centre president and CEO Paul Melia told a news conference in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We lived that once. We don't want to live it again."

Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport president and CEO Paul Melia cited the bitter memory of the moment sprinter Ben Johnson was stripped of his Olympic gold medal after being disqualified for doping at the 1988 Summer Games.

NHL

Arnott hangs up skates for good

Jason Arnott has announced his retirement after playing 1,244 games in 18 NHL seasons.

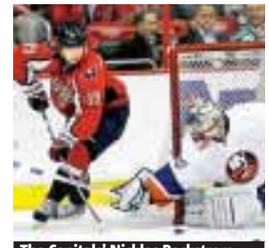
Arnott was the No. 7 overall pick of the Oilers in 1993. He finished with 938 points (417 goals and 521 assists) having also played for the New Jersey Devils, Dallas Stars, Nashville Predators, Washington Capitals and St. Louis Blues.

Arnott had not played since the end of the 2011-12 season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Ovechkin picks up where he left off for Caps

Alex Ovechkin returned from a shoulder injury to score his 11th and 12th goals of the season, and the Washington Capitals rode a second-period flurry to a 6-2 win over the New York Islanders on Tuesday night.

After being sidelined for two games, Ovechkin scored twice on the power play in a five-goal second period for the Capitals, who have won three straight and are above .500 for the first time this season (8-7). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Capitals' Nicklas Backstrom puts a shot on the Islanders' net against goalie Evgeni Nabokov
NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

DRIVE 5

Introducing the Dodge Can'avan

All for a good cause.
Creation will help raise poverty awareness

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The Dodge Can'avan is probably half-eaten by now. CONTRIBUTED

To the list of vehicles constructed over the years with wacky materials add the Dodge Can'avan, made entirely of approximately 30,000 cans of food.

Thirty volunteers built the van of can in about 10 hours at Toronto's Dundas Square last week. It stood on display for a few days, then was disassembled and donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank. It's likely half-eaten by now.

The builders or "can-geneers" were local students, and members of Canstruction. The U.S.-based nonprofit agency goes around the world organizing groups to create structures entirely out of canned goods, to help raise awareness of poverty and hunger issues, and to get math, science and technology students pumped up about their futures in engineering, and in community service.

Chrysler thought it was a great way to help out, and to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Chrysler minivan, which debuted in 1983.

And like any vehicle made out of a "non-traditional" car-building material, Can'avan is also a great subject for bad puns. Does Can'avan have any working doors? No, just a can opener. "Can" you actually drive it? No, you "can't." Plans for a production version have been "canned." Etcetera.

Building vehicle sculptures out of odd materials is almost an art form of sorts. Let's revisit a few famous ones…

Chevrolet of Cheese
Last year, when The American Dairy Association (ADA) sponsored Terry Labonte's NASCAR program, the ADA commissioned a full-scale "cheese" sculpture of Labonte's Chevrolet racer. Carved from 3,500 pounds of yellow cheddar, it held the title of "The World's Cheesiest Car," which really cheesed off a Gouda-based competitor, who thought the Chevy was not nearly Gouda nough.

Lamborghini of Gold
German car model maker, Robert Wilhelm Gulpen, carved a 1:18 scale model Lamborghini Aventador out of solid gold. Containing 25 kg (55 pounds) of the precious metal and lots of gemstones, the model is estimated to be worth several million — lots more than a regular, full-scale $400,000-plus Aventador. I can't afford either, but especially the solid gold one.

Ferrari of Lego
This creation is a full-scale model of Ferrari's 2011 Formula 1 racer. It took a team of 16 Lego experts six months to plan and assemble the hundreds of thousands of Lego bricks. The build time could have been cut down by a few weeks, but the team insisted on keeping to their mid-afternoon schedule of naptime, story time, and snacks.

The solid gold Lamborghini costs several million dollars. CONTRIBUTED

Toyota of Ice
Artists carved a full-scale Toyota Land Cruiser, complete with interior, out of solid ice for a Russian winter festival. It was super slick, but when you used the defroster the whole windshield disappeared.

Bugatti of Cigarette Packs Engineering students in China used 10,280 cigarette packs and eight months to build a replicable of a Bugatti Veyron. No time or space for a pun. Got to butt out.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
By all means, think big but before you put your latest plan into effect, make sure there are no obvious holes in it. Even a minor error could hold you back, so check, double check, then check again to be safe.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to take out your frustrations on friends. It's not their fault you can't seem to get your act together. The only way you are going to improve your mood is to ease up and stop expecting so much of yourself.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is a rational explanation for everything that happens. Keep that in mind today and you'll do fine. However, just because there is an explanation does not mean you will find it. Maybe the time's not right.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may not want to admit that a colleague's big idea is better than your own but everyone else can see it so you might as well accept the fact. It's OK.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may think you have to cut back on essentials but that would be a false economy. Just because you take a step backward does not mean you will move forward any faster.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
By all means, point the finger if you can prove who the guilty party is but if there are any doubts, you must keep your suspicions to yourself. It could be you have got the bad guys and good guys mixed up.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What you say and do must be consistent or you'll leave yourself open to charges of hypocrisy. That applies on the work front, where colleagues will not be impressed if you fail to practice what you preach.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may regret having made certain decisions but there is no need to feel sorry for yourself. Nor is there any reason to change course. All roads lead to where you need to go, so just keep walking.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You want to tell others how you feel but for some reason, the words won't come. Maybe you should take the hint and keep your feelings to yourself, at least for now.

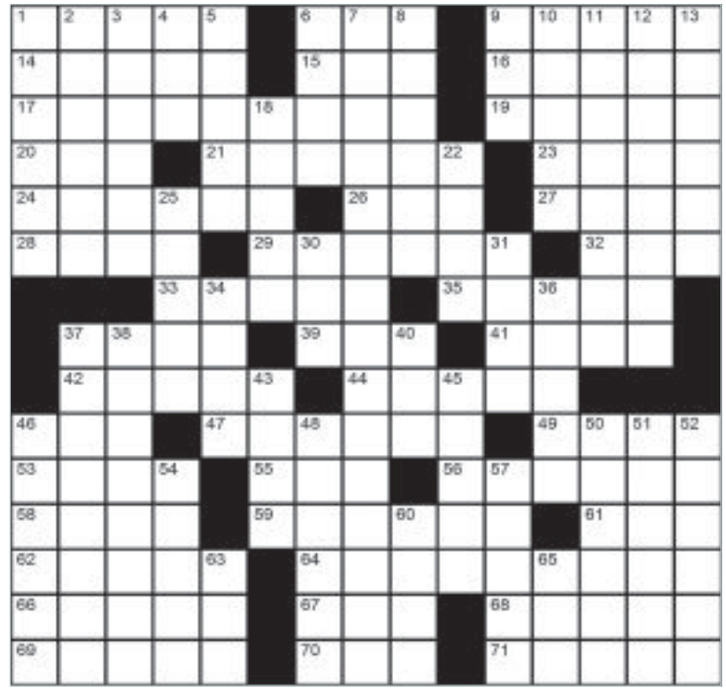
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Even a Cap takes a wrong turn sometimes so don't get angry with yourself if you have to retrace your steps today. The worst thing you can do is to blunder ahead regardless. There's a steep drop up ahead.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What is painful in the short term may be beneficial in the long term, so don't give up on what you are doing yet. The more you have to work at something, the more likely it is you will master it.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may have to be economical with the truth today, especially if there is information you need to keep out of the hands of your rivals. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

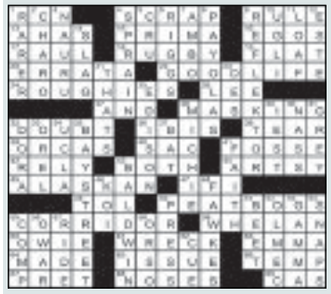
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Do cartography work again
6. Great Expectations character
9. Capital of Senegal
14. Gladden
15. Record label for Elvis
16. Mary J. of song
17. Nova Scotia community, a name Beatles fans must love
19. ArmÈe du __ = The Salvation Army
20. Tree tool
21. Indicate
23. Nero's 1502
24. Festive strands
26. Hosp. area
27. Tree trunk
28. Formerly
29. Rise
32. "Waking __ Devine" (1998)
33. Butcher shop waste
35. Succeed in life: 2 wds.
37. Dynasty of ancient China
39. __ Mahal
41. Songstress Ms. Simone
42. "The Planets" composer: Gustav __ (b.1874 - d.1934)
44. More recent
46. 'P' in MPH
47. Quash
49. Think, archaically
53. Trompe l'__ (Visual illusion)
55. Mr. Cruise
56. Stick to
58. Rocker Mr. Osbourne
59. Of service
61. FOX cartoon, "American __!"
62. Satellite of Saturn
64. Ex-RCMP officer on "Dragons' Den", Jim __
66. Tennis great Ivan
67. Sanctions
68. Faint trace
69. S s sSssS
70. Clock setting in St. John's, commonly
71. "Egads!"

Down
1. "There's not anything to which you can't __..." - Alanis Morissette, "Everything"
2. Magical potion
3. Experts
4. Lunched
5. As such, Latin style: 2 wds.
6. '70s music genre, __-Rock
7. CN Tower and Parliament Buildings, for example: 2 wds.
8. Princess' house
9. Sound loudness units [abbr.]
10. Gentle as _ __
11. Area of Winnipeg, West __
12. "The Voice" coach Christina
13. Made the score even again
18. Rice dish
22. Breather's need
25. Tavern chair
30. SNL night, for short
31. Finished
34. Be a mother hen
36. Colin of movies
37. Canadian snacks
38. Skylines
40. 'Game' in Gaspe
43. Dancer's dress
45. "__ __ live in a yellow submarine..." - The Beatles
46. Second smartest dog
48. #64-Across' restaurant chain, __ Pizza
50. Stuff in a teacher's correcting pen: 2 wds.
51. Juice source
52. Some higher-heeled shoes
54. "The Hollywood Squares" centre square occupant, Paul __
57. God
60. Top
63. Chicago trains
65. IV + III's equivalent

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2		8					
8	9					4		6
		6		2				7
3		5		8	1			
	1						4	
			9	4		5		3
4				1		8		
6		2					7	4
					5		3	

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	9	3	7	1	6	5	4
7	4	3	6	8	5	2	1	9
1	5	6	2	9	4	3	8	7
6	2	1	7	4	8	5	9	3
4	9	5	1	3	6	8	7	2
3	7	8	5	2	9	4	6	1
5	3	7	9	6	2	1	4	8
8	6	2	4	1	7	9	3	5
9	1	4	8	5	3	7	2	6

Today -1°/-9° Variable
Thursday 0°/-8° Mainly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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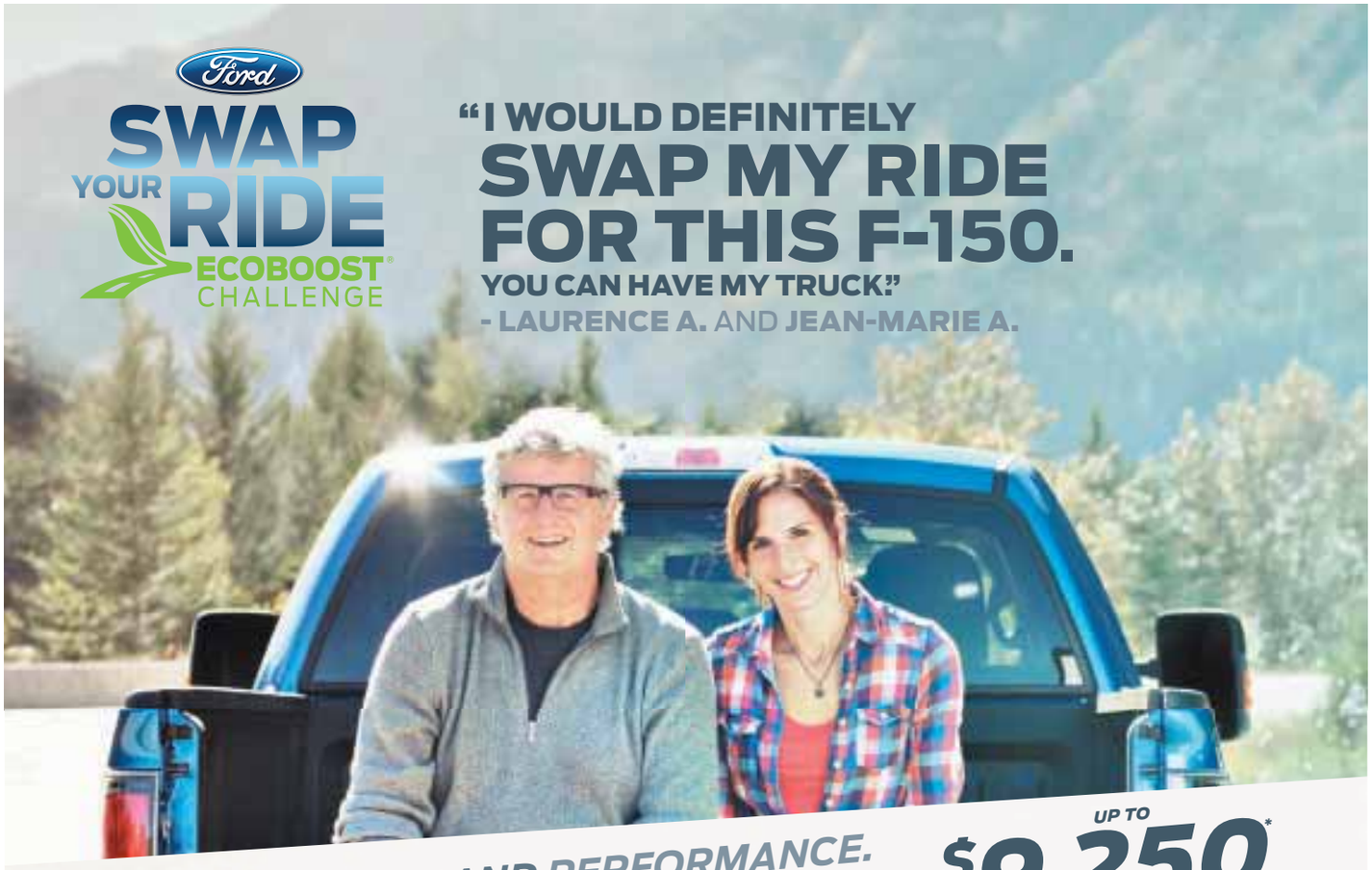

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